



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 249.303

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors : Joseph S. Bieganek and Thomas R. Hetzel
Serial No. : 10/628,860
Filed : July 28, 2003
Title : CONTOURED SEAT CUSHION AND METHOD FOR
OFFLOADING PRESSURE FROM SKELETAL BONE
PROMINENCES AND ENCOURAGING PROPER
POSTURAL ALIGNMENT

Group Art Unit : 3673
Confirmation No. : 3850
Examiner : Michael Safavi

Declaration of Dana Polonsky

I, Dana Polonsky, declare as follows:

1. I am the Vice President of Clinical Services for Craig Hospital in Englewood, Colorado. Craig Hospital is a world-renown facility for treating and rehabilitating patients with spinal cord injuries and traumatic brain injuries. Many of the patients who are treated and rehabilitated at Craig Hospital are wheelchair users due to their spinal cord injuries or brain injuries.

2. In my present position as Vice President of Clinical Services, I oversee the clinical departments of Physical and Occupational Therapy. These clinicians are directly involved in the treatment and therapy of patients with spinal cord injuries or brain injuries who use wheelchairs.

3. Prior to becoming Vice President of Clinical Services, I was Director of the Physical Therapy Department at Craig Hospital, where I oversaw and supervised physical therapists working with spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries. I have also worked in the Physical Therapy Department of Craig Hospital as a physical therapy clinician in Craig Hospital's seating and positioning clinic. Additionally, I am a licensed

professional Physical Therapist. All totaled, I have worked in these capacities for Craig Hospital in excess of 22 years.

4. Since approximately 2002, Craig Hospital has referred patients with challenging skin and posture issues to Thomas Hetzel, and his companies Aspen Seating and Ride Designs, for the purpose of obtaining cushions for their wheelchairs that avoid skin and posture problems.

5. Specifically, the cushions supplied by Mr. Hetzel, Aspen Seating and Ride Designs focus support on areas of the body that appear tolerant to pressure and shear forces, specifically posterior lateral gluteal muscles and proximal thighs. The cushions are designed to relieve pressure and shear forces from the bony prominences at the ischial tuberosities, coccyx, sacrum, and greater trochanters. This type of cushion configuration has proved effective with many of our patients where other types of cushions have failed in providing optimal health, skin, and posture outcomes.

6. The cushions supplied by Mr. Hetzel, Aspen Seating and Ride Designs simultaneously incorporate a unique style of postural support combined with an extremely high level of protection for skin breakdown.

7. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the patent application or any patent issued thereon.

10/18/2006

Date

Dana Polonsky, PT

Dana Polonsky, PT